



Stanton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting Agenda December 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

1. Call to Order
 2. Public Comment
 3. Approval of Minutes of the October 2, 2024, Policy Board Meeting*
 4. Approval of the 2025 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule (Board Action Form #24-10)*
 5. Approval of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Goals (Board Action Form #24-11)
 6. Agency Updates
 - VDOT
 - DRPT
 - BRITE & Afton Express
 - Localities
 7. Other Business
 8. Upcoming Meetings
 - December 18, 2024 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, CSPDC Office, 2:00 p.m.
 - January 15, 2025 – Policy Board Meeting, CSPDC Office, 10:00 a.m.
 9. Adjournment
- *Action Required

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Other Attendees	
City of Staunton		VDOT		Staff (CSPDC)	
✓	Amanda Kaufman		Shane McCabe (Alt)	✓	Ann Cundy
✓	Brad Arrowood (Chair)		Cody Huffman (Alt)	✓	Zach Beard
	John Blair (Alt)	DRPT		✓	Devon Thompson
Augusta County		✓*	Grace Stankus	✓	Paula Melester
✓	Tim Fitzgerald	Virginia Regional Transit		✓	Danielle Gannon
✓	Carolyn Bragg	✓*	Steve Wilson	✓	Hardi Kamali
	Pam Carter (Alt)		Phil Thompson (Alt)	✓	Elizabeth Goodloe
City of Waynesboro		Department of Aviation		✓*	Garreth Bartholomew
✓	Jim Wood (Vice Chair)		Rusty Harrington	Others	
✓	Todd Wood	FHWA and FTA		✓	Colin Birch, VPRA
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Chelsea Beytas		
VDOT			Kevin Jones		
✓	Todd Stevens				
✓	Brad Reed (Alt)				
✓	Don Komara (Alt)				
	Cody Huffman				

* Virtual Participants

Call to Order

The SAWMPO Policy Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Brad Arrowood, Chair. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, SAWMPO Policy Board members may participate in meetings of the SAWMPO or its committees through electronic communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Ms. Paula Melester introduced several new CSPDC team members: Danielle Gannon as the new transit planner who will oversee the RideShare program and work on BRITE and Afton Express projects; Elizabeth Goodloe, joining the CSPDC community planning team; and Hardi Kamali, a JMU Master's of Public Administration graduate assistant.

Public Comment

Chair Arrowood opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Arrowood presented the minutes from the September 4, 2024 Policy Board meeting.

Ms. Carolyn Bragg moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Jim Wood. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

LRTP Public Engagement Summary and Next Steps (Board Memo #24-08)

Mr. Beard provided the draft results for the first phase of public engagement for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The online survey was open from August 12 through September 30 and received 284 total responses and 683 individual map entries. Survey demographics showed 51% women and 42% men respondents, with 45% of respondents over age 56. The mapping exercise allowed users to identify transportation concerns in six categories, with the top three being walking/crossing issues, safety concerns, and biking-related issues.

Key draft findings from the survey included:

- 45-50% of mapped concerns were in Staunton
- 25-30% were in Waynesboro
- 20% were in Augusta County
- US 250 received the most comments outside of interstates
- Greenville Avenue and Johnson Street intersection in Staunton received the most location-specific comments

The needs and concerns ranking exercise revealed missing sidewalks/crosswalks and safety/distracted driving as top priorities, while congestion ranked lower. Age-based analysis showed younger respondents (18-35) prioritized bike lanes, while those 46 and above emphasized safety and sidewalks. Those 56 and above more frequently noted bus service concerns. Mr. Beard noted that the results were preliminary, and that MPO staff would be developing a full Phase I public engagement survey report to summarize the results in subsequent months.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) Update

Mr. Colin Birch, Senior Planning Manager with VPRA, presented an overview of the organization and local projects. He detailed the Stanton Station project, which includes platform improvements, ADA compliance upgrades, and infrastructure repairs. The project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase, with completion expected in spring 2025. VPRA is pursuing additional federal funding through various grant opportunities.

Mr. Birch also discussed potential Cardinal route improvements, noting that the Federal Rail Administration's Long Distance Service study identified the route as a candidate for increased service from three days to daily operations. Implementation timeline is estimated at approximately 10 years.

Agency Updates

VDOT

Mr. Brad Reed noted that VDOT HSIP applications are open until October 31, 2024. Mr. Don Komara provided the following updates:

- Barterbrook Road project is ahead of schedule
- Waynesboro Southern Corridor project progressing well
- I-81 improvements through Stanton showing progress
- New project in Weyers Cave area to begin bidding
- Detailed updates on flood response and road closures due to recent severe weather

DRPT

Ms. Grace Stankus gave the following update:

- Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) meeting scheduled for October 8 at 10 a.m.
- Annual Grant Application Workshop scheduled for November 13 at 11:00 a.m.

BRITE Transit

Ms. Devon Thompson gave the following updates:

- CSPDC was awarded a technical assistance grant to conduct a micro-transit feasibility study, and staff is reviewing proposals.
- Construction at the Lewis Street Hub is complete, a ribbon cutting was held on Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m., and the Hub is operational.

Afton Express

Ms. Thompson gave the following updates:

- The Afton Express celebrated the third year of service in September.
- CSPDC is implementing fare-free ridership for UVA-affiliated riders.

Locality Updates

Augusta County

- Mr. Tim Fitzgerald noted that the County Comprehensive Plan update is progressing. Mr. Fitzgerald also provided an overview of the Hurricane Helene-related flooding in the County, and the County is coordinating relief efforts for flood victims in southwest Virginia and western North Carolina.

City of Waynesboro

- Mr. Jim Wood noted that the City's Comprehensive Plan update will be starting soon, and Hurricane Helene flooding impacted the downtown area, with Main Street Bridge closed during the flooding.



City of Staunton

- Ms. Amanda Kaufman noted that the City held a Comprehensive Plan Kick-off meeting, and the City was relatively unaffected by the Hurricane Helene flooding. The City had implemented flood sensors with notification systems for residents, which are proving to be helpful.

Other Business

Ms. Melester mentioned that the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) community development team is working on the region's hazard mitigation plan and encouraged participation in their survey about severe weather events and community preparedness.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Arrowood noted that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for August 21 and the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 4.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Arrowood requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Arrowood adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Melester".

Paula Melester
Director of Transportation

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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board
FROM: Paula Melester, Director of Transportation
MEETING DATE: December 4, 2024
RE: **Board Action Form #24-10: Approval of 2025 SAWMPO Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDATION

The TAC reviewed the proposed meeting schedule at the November 2024 TAC meeting and recommended that the Board approve the schedule. The proposed 2025 schedule adjusts the schedule to hold TAC meetings on the first Wednesday of each month prior to Policy Board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

BACKGROUND

SAWMPO staff develop an annual meeting schedule at the end of each calendar year (see **Page 2** of this memo). In the past, the Policy Board has met before the TAC each month. Beginning in 2025, SAWMPO staff are proposing adjusting the meeting schedule to hold TAC meetings before Policy Board meetings to ensure that TAC recommendations and technical reviews are completed before items are presented to the Policy Board each month.

The proposed new schedule moves TAC meetings to the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m., and Policy Board meetings to the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

2025 SAWMPO MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2025 schedule reflects the proposed meeting schedule adjustment for the TAC and Policy Board. A 2022 Virginia FOIA law amendment allows the SAWMPO to conduct two virtual meetings annually. The Board and TAC concurred with scheduling one virtual meeting annually in February and having another virtual meeting "floating" to hold as-needed. The full Policy Board and TAC meeting schedules are on **Page 2** of this memo.

A public notice for the 2025 meeting schedules will be published in local newspapers and posted on www.sawmpo.org in accordance with the SAWMPO [Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#). Changes to the 2025 meeting schedule or format will be posted on the website, and publicly noticed in local papers as required by the PPP. Policy Board and TAC members will be notified of meeting schedule changes by email at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

2025 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Schedule	
January 1, 2025 – New Year’s Day (No meeting)	July 2, 2025
February 5, 2025 (virtual)	August 6, 2025
March 5, 2025	September 3, 2025
April 2, 2025	October 1, 2025
May 7, 2025	November 5, 2025
June 4, 2025	December 3, 2025
First Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	

2025 Policy Board Meeting Schedule	
January 15, 2025	July 16, 2025
February 19, 2025 (virtual)	August 20, 2025
March 19, 2025	September 17, 2025
April 16, 2025	October 15, 2025
May 21, 2025	November 19, 2025
June 18, 2025	December 17, 2025
Third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Location (unless otherwise noted): Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia	





TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board
FROM: Zach Beard
MEETING DATE: December 4, 2024
RE: **Board Action Form #24-11: Approval of the 2050 Long Range
Transportation Plan Goals**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Policy Board approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) prioritized goal list, which were reviewed and prioritized by staff from each MPO locality.

UPDATING THE 2050 LRTP GOALS

Draft List

The 2050 LRTP prioritized goals reflect the transportation needs of each SAWMPO locality, and also state and federal planning programs. Key changes from the from the 2045 to the 2050 goals lists included combining the Connectivity and Accessibility Goals under the term “Accessibility,” changing Quality of Life to “Environmental Sustainability,” and including the term “congestion” under the Efficient System Management goal (see **Table 1**).

Table 1. Draft 2050 LRTP Goal List

DRAFT SAWMPO 2050 LRTP Goals (no order)
<p>Economic Development Support and improve the economic vitality of the region by encouraging a transportation system that provides access to jobs, education, and attracts businesses and entrepreneurs to the region.</p>
<p>Efficient System Management Maintain existing transportation systems and facilities and promote efficient system management to address congestion and reliability.</p>
<p>Safety Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for all users.</p>
<p>Land use coordination Encourage the coordination of land use and transportation planning for transportation improvements to support future growth.</p>
<p>Accessibility Provide an efficient, reliable transportation system for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users, including traditionally underserved populations. Ensure connectivity of the transportation system across modes for the transport of both people and goods.</p>
<p>Environmental Sustainability Improve quality of life by protecting and enhancing historic and natural resources, promoting energy conservation, maintaining air quality, and expanding regional recreation networks.</p>

Locality Input for Each Goal

Staff from each MPO locality prioritized the goals based on local system performance needs, public input, and staff expertise (see **Table 2**). Each locality ranked Safety and Efficient System Management as top priorities. Both cities ranked Accessibility higher than the County, while the County prioritized Land Use Coordination and Economic Development.

Table 2. Locality Rankings

Rank	Staunton	Augusta County	Waynesboro
1	Safety	Safety	Safety
2	Accessibility	Land Use Coordination	Accessibility
3	Efficient System Management	Efficient System Management	Efficient System Management
4	Environmental Sustainability	Economic Development	Economic Development
5	Land Use Coordination	Accessibility	Land Use Coordination
6	Economic Development	Environmental Sustainability	Environmental Sustainability

Final Draft Prioritized List

Based on the locality rankings, Safety is the most important priority in the SAWMPO region, and Efficient System Management and Accessibility both tied as the second most important priority. The tie demonstrates a high priority not only for preserving and enhancing existing infrastructure, but also developing new multi-modal facilities. The main differences between the 2050 LRTP prioritized goal list and the 2045 list is that safety improvements and multi-modal infrastructure such as walking and biking facilities are prioritized higher than the economic development goal.

Table 3. 2045 and 2050 Prioritized Goal List Comparison

SAWMPO 2045 LRTP Prioritized Goals	DRAFT SAWMPO 2050 LRTP Goal List
Goal 1 – Economy	Goal 1 – Safety
Goal 2 – Efficient system management	Goal 2 (tied) – Efficient System Management
Goal 3 – Safety	Goal 2 (tied) – Accessibility
Goal 4 – Land use coordination	Goal 4 – Land Use Coordination
Goal 5 – Connectivity	Goal 5 – Economic Development
Goal 6 – Accessibility	Goal 6 – Environmental Sustainability
Goal 7 – Quality of life	

UPDATING THE 2050 PROJECT LIST

The goals inform which projects are included in the 2050 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), which is the transportation project list in the LRTP that includes currently funded projects and projects planned for funding through 2050. [The 2045 CLRP included 51 projects](#), with 22 in Augusta County, 17 in Staunton, and 12 in Waynesboro. The TAC is drafting a 2050 project list, which will be finalized at the December TAC meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Policy Board approval of the 2050 LRTP prioritized goal list, staff will use the goal list to assist with weighting the project scoring evaluation criteria to determine which projects are included in the 2050 CLRP. Before the projects are scored, a draft list of projects will be presented to the Board in January 2025 for approval, and the projects will also be presented to the public in February 2025 as part of Phase II of the LRTP public engagement process.

ATTACHMENTS

- [2050 LRTP Schedule](#)
- [2050 LRTP Webpage](#)
- [2045 LRTP Project List](#)

